

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 remain in the application for consideration of the Examiner.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Turning now to the art rejections, Claims 1, 2, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kou; Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kou in view of Haartsen; Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kou and Haartsen in view of Papadopoulos; Claims 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable Kou in view of Raychaudhuri; and Claims 12, and 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable Kou in view of Gatherer.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Kou does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention including the method step of responsive to the determining step the first device assigning to respective retransmission time slots of a retransmission period a plurality of further communications between the first device and further devices in independent Claim 1, defined as responsive to the detecting step, the first device assigning to a retransmission time slot of a retransmission period a further communication from the first device to a further devices which indicates that the retransmission period will change in length in independent Claim 13, albeit defined as the controller responsive to the information for assigning to respective retransmission time slots of a retransmission period a plurality of further communications with a further apparatus in independent Claim 17.

The Examiner's attention is directed to column 7, lines 30-35 where Kou discloses that if the retransmission packet count is equal to or greater than 1, control branches to step 103 to read the count of the retransmit interval counter RIC.

With Kou, the first device does not perform the assigning.

Haartsen does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention including the first device assigning to respective retransmission time slots of a retransmission period a plurality of further communications between the first device and the further devices in the various forms in independent Claims 1, 13, and 17.

Haartsen discloses master and slave devices but the master devices do not assign respective retransmission time slots.

Papadopoulos does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention including the first device assigning to respective retransmission time slots of a retransmission period a plurality of further communications between the first device and the further devices as defined in the various forms in independent Claims 1, 13, and 17.

Whether or not Papadopoulos discloses particular active users are shifted by one slot position and whether or not one of ordinary skill in the art would consider modifying Kou is of no moment since the resulting construction would still in no way disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention.

Raychaudhuri does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention including the first device assigning to respective retransmission time slots of a retransmission period a plurality of further communications between the first device and the further devices as defined in the various forms in independent Claims 1, 13, and 17.

The Examiner alleges that this aspect is disclosed at column 8, lines 28-32.

However, notwithstanding the allegations of the Examiner, Raychaudhuri discloses at this location that the function of the DLC layer differs depending on whether it is a base station or a remote station this difference stems from the fact that all the base stations control all the slot allocations including retransmission requests.

Gatherer does not correct the above deficiencies.

Applicants appreciate the indication that if Claims 3-7 were rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, that these claims would be allowable.

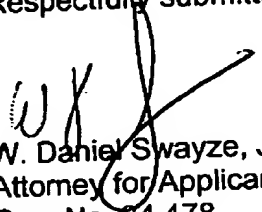
By the instant amendment, Claim 3 has been amended to include only the limitations of Claim 1.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

While it is believed that the instant response places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Texas Instruments Incorporated, Account No. 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,



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